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LIVESTOCK AND MEATS
FLM 10-62
June 1962

WORLD SHEEP NUMBERS INCREASE

1 PERCENT DURING 1961

World sheep numbers totaled 990 million head at the beginning of 1962, 11 million above 1961 but 1 million below the peak of 1960. Improved pasture conditions in the major producing areas were a major factor in the increase in numbers during 1961. The increase of 142 million head above the 1951-55 average almost equals sheep numbers in Australia, the world's largest producer.

The majority of the world's sheep are concentrated in a relatively small number of countries. Fourteen countries have more than 20 million head each and account for about 71 percent of the world's sheep. Australia and the U.S.S.R. each with more than 135 million head, account for nearly 30 percent of the world total. Mainland China, New Zealand, Argentina, the Republic of South Africa and India each have more than 40 million head. Turkey and the United States have more than 30 million, while 5 countries--Spain, Iran, Uruguay, the United Kingdom, and Ethiopia--have more than 20 million.

During 1961 sheep numbers increased 3 percent in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Numbers in South America, Western Europe, Africa, Asia, and Oceania increased about 1 percent. North American numbers, however, declined 3 percent during 1961.

The increase in world sheep numbers by major geographic areas since 1951-55 range from 49 percent in the U.S.S.R. to 2 percent in North and South America. Numbers in Oceania increased 28 percent; Asia 14 percent; Africa 13 percent; Eastern Europe 11 percent; and Western Europe 5 percent.

North America. The 3 percent decline in North America during 1961 was due primarily to relatively low lamb prices in the United States which were accompanied by a reduction in sheep flocks. Numbers in Canada also

SHEEP: Number in specified countries
average 1951-55, annual 1959-62

	Average				1/	Change	
	1951-55	1959	1960	1961	1962	1962	1962
						1951-55	1961
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000		
	head	head	head	head	head	Percent	Percent
North America...	38,990	40,560	41,440	41,110	39,730	+2	-3
South America...	121,310	123,220	122,520	122,620	123,650	+2	+1
Europe:							
Western.....	78,570	79,240	81,210	81,750	82,220	+5	+1
Eastern.....	38,850	40,960	41,940	41,670	42,960	+11	+3
Total Europe:	117,420	120,200	123,150	123,420	125,180	+7	+1
U.S.S.R.	92,200	129,900	136,100	132,900	137,000	+49	+3
Africa.....	134,410	147,730	150,120	150,210	151,660	+13	+1
Asia.....	184,230	216,170	215,850	207,590	209,290	+14	+1
Oceania.....	159,530	199,570	202,320	201,140	203,960	+28	+1
Total World...	848,100	977,400	991,500	979,000	990,500	+17	+1

1/ Preliminary.

declined for the same reason. Lamb prices are expected to be relatively more favorable during 1962. Mexican sheep numbers rose by about 200,000 head but were not enough to offset the decrease in U.S. numbers. Numbers in Mexico are expected to increase further during 1962.

South America. Sheep numbers continued to rise in South America. In Argentina, the major producing country, numbers declined about 1 percent. Although wool prices have been relatively favorable, emphasis has been shifted to increase production of beef which has reduced feed supplies for sheep.

Numbers in the other major sheep producing countries of South America increased during 1961. Peru recorded the largest increase with a 2 percent gain. Numbers in Brazil increased by about 350,000 head and in Uruguay by 300,000.

Western Europe. The major changes in Western Europe in 1961 were the increases of 370,000 head in Ireland, 200,000 in the United Kingdom and 70,000 in France. Increases in the United Kingdom were the result of better pastures and larger feed supplies. The 9 percent gain in Ireland's numbers was the result of smaller exports, because of lower export prices and increased lamb production in the United Kingdom.

Other Western European countries showed little change; a few countries recorded slight declines and others slight increases. Numbers may rise again during 1962 with most of the increase occurring in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and France.

Eastern Europe. Numbers in Eastern Europe rose 3 percent as emphasis continues to be placed on higher meat and wool production. Rumania, Yugoslavia and Hungary accounted for most of the increase during 1961.

In the Soviet Union sheep numbers increased about 3 percent from 133 million in early 1961 to 137 million at the beginning of 1962. The U.S.S.R. is the world's second largest producer of sheep. Numbers at the beginning of 1962 were 49 percent above the 1951-55 average.

Africa. In Africa numbers rose by about 1,500,000 during 1961. Most of the rise was accounted for by Morocco, Mali, and Mauritania. In the Republic of South Africa there was no apparent change from the previous year. However, with continued drought in the Republic numbers may decrease during 1962.

Asia. Sheep numbers in Asia increased slightly during 1961. Sizeable increases were recorded in Turkey and Iran as improved pasture conditions increased feed supplies. Little is known of numbers in Mainland China. However, pasture conditions have been relatively favorable in the principal sheep producing areas. Numbers in Japan dropped during 1961 continuing the trend of the past 4 years.

Oceania. In Australia, the world's largest sheep producer, numbers rose by 2.3 million head and nearly equaled the record of 1960. Increased exports of mutton in 1962 may slow down the rate of increase, but numbers should gain slightly during 1962.

Numbers in New Zealand rose about 1 percent during 1961. New Zealand expanded its markets for lamb and mutton to several Asian countries during 1961. With the strong demand for New Zealand lamb in the United Kingdom, new markets in Asia and a relatively good market for lamb and mutton in the United States, New Zealand sheep numbers should continue to increase during 1962.



Growth Through Agricultural Progress

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS
World Summaries

May 31, 1962

SHEEP: Number in specified countries, average 1951-55, annual 1959-62

Country	Average 1951-55	1959	1960	1961 1/	1962 1/	Month of estimate
	:Thousands	:Thousands	:Thousands	:Thousands	:Thousands	
North America:						
Canada (excluding New- foundland).....	1,074	1,141	1,188	1,135	1,071	Dec. 1 2/
United States (Continental):	31,491	32,606	33,170	32,967	31,446	Jan. 1
Guatemala.....	808	792	841	677	---	April
Mexico.....	5,040	5,380	5,600	5,700	5,900	Spring
Cuba.....	190	210	210	---	---	Dec. 2/
Total North America 3/	38,990	40,560	41,440	41,110	39,730	
South America:						
Argentina.....	47,317	48,846	48,053	47,500	47,000	June 30
Bolivia.....4/	6,464	7,223	---	---	---	Jan.
Brazil.....	16,133	19,921	18,995	18,162	18,525	Dec. 31 2/
Chile.....	6,860	7,300	7,400	7,500	7,520	Jan. 1
Colombia.....	1,293	1,190	1,305	1,400	1,450	Jan. 1
Ecuador.....	1,394	1,630	1,710	1,830	1,840	
Falkland Islands.....	597	621	---	---	---	
Paraguay.....	220	165	160	---	---	
Peru.....	16,338	14,760	15,136	16,009	16,800	Dec. 31 2/
Uruguay.....	24,533	21,351	21,700	22,000	22,300	May
Total South America 3/	121,310	123,220	122,520	122,620	123,650	
Europe:						
Austria.....	318	194	185	175	169	Dec. 2/
Belgium-Luxembourg.....	117	112	117	---	---	Jan.
Denmark 5/.....	43	36	42	46	---	July
Finland.....	976	381	341	307	---	June
France.....	7,725	8,744	8,941	9,043	9,111	Oct. 2/
Germany, West 6/.....7/	1,495	1,106	1,084	1,035	987	Dec. 2/
Greece.....	7,843	9,255	9,334	9,353	9,370	Dec. 2/
Iceland.....	487	730	770	800	---	Dec. 2/
Ireland.....	2,118	3,100	3,225	3,107	3,376	Jan.
Italy.....	9,706	8,393	8,343	8,224	8,160	Jan.
Netherlands.....8/	405	339	294	263	284	Dec. 2/
Norway.....	1,056	954	939	966	979	Dec. 2/
Portugal 9/.....	5,200	4,248	5,025	5,050	5,050	Dec. 2/
Spain.....	24,115	20,736	22,622	22,665	---	May 31
Sweden.....	208	146	156	171	---	June 1
Switzerland.....	188	220	220	227	228	April
United Kingdom.....	16,428	20,370	19,391	20,031	20,223	Dec. 2/
Total West Europe 3/.....	78,575	79,235	81,205	81,750	82,220	
Albania.....	1,601	1,615	---	---	---	
Bulgaria.....	7,763	8,619	8,769	8,901	---	Jan.
Czechoslovakia.....	882	817	727	646	---	Jan. 1
Germany, East.....	1,403	2,111	2,115	2,015	---	Dec. 3 2/
Hungary.....	1,597	2,155	2,381	2,643	2,800	March
Poland.....	3,442	3,778	3,662	3,509	---	June 30
Rumania.....	10,903	10,620	11,200	11,500	12,400	Jan.
Yugoslavia.....	11,259	11,247	11,475	10,842	11,078	Jan. 15
Total East Europe 3/.....	38,850	40,960	41,940	41,670	42,960	
Total Europe 3/.....	117,420	120,200	123,150	123,420	125,180	
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia).....10/	92,200	129,900	136,100	132,900	137,000	Jan. 1

(Continued)

May 31, 1962

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS
World Summaries

SHEEP: Number in specified countries, average 1951-55, annual 1959-62 (continued)

Country	Average 1951-55	1959	1960	1961 1/	1962 1/	Month of estimate
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	
Africa:						
Algeria.....	11/ 5,583	5,785	5,000	---	---	June
Ethiopia-Eritrea.....	19,725	20,000	---	---	---	
Libya.....	1,280	---	---	---	---	
Morocco.....	17,264	17,000	15,000	14,137	14,500	
Sudan.....	5,840	6,946	6,946	7,150	---	
Tunisia.....	3,013	3,410	3,793	---	---	Dec. 31 2/
U.A.R., Egypt.....	1,381	1,266	1,578	1,587	1,596	Jan. 2/
Cameroon, Federal Rep. of....	600	530	530	---	---	Dec. 2/
Congo, Rep. of the 12/.....	529	741	741	---	---	Dec. 31 2/
Guinea.....	---	---	344	361	---	
Ivory Coast.....	---	---	370	372	---	
Kenya.....	13/ 4,331	4,549	5,083	---	---	Aug. 2/
Malagasy Republic.....	342	207	---	---	---	Dec. 2/
Mali 14/.....	---	7,208	8,188	9,000	9,900	
Mauritania.....	---	---	2,000	2,050	2,110	
Niger.....	---	---	2,000	---	---	
Nigeria.....	6,000	9,000	15/10,000	15/10,000	---	
Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Federation of.....	378	387	424	424	---	Dec. 31 2/
Ruanda-Urundi.....	404	570	591	---	---	Dec. 31 2/
Tanganyika.....	2,678	2,806	2,874	---	---	
Togo.....	268	409	---	---	---	
Uganda 16/.....	1,093	1,127	959	---	---	
Upper Volta.....	---	1,200	1,300	1,325	---	
Basutoland.....	1,418	1,301	---	---	---	
South West Africa.....	3,280	3,200	---	---	---	
South Africa.....	36,100	37,900	40,200	40,000	---	
Total Africa 3/.....	134,410	147,730	150,120	150,200	151,700	
Asia:						
Cyprus.....	329	394	434	434	---	
Iran.....	17,124	24,000	23,700	22,000	22,435	Mar. 21
Iraq 14/.....	9,800	---	---	---	---	Mar. 21
Jordan.....	319	469	---	---	---	Dec. 2/
Saudi Arabia.....	3,700	---	---	---	---	Nov. 2/
Turkey (Europe and Asia).....	25,709	30,823	33,614	31,106	32,039	
Syria.....	3,961	6,650	4,756	3,000	---	Dec. 31 2/
Yemen.....	3,750	---	---	---	---	
China Mainland 17/.....	41,952	58,800	60,800	---	---	Dec. 2/
Afghanistan.....	14,000	---	---	---	---	
India.....	39,469	39,500	39,600	40,260	---	May
Japan.....	647	864	788	677	604	Feb. 1
Total Asia 3/.....	184,230	216,170	215,850	207,590	209,290	
Oceania:						
Australia.....	122,822	152,685	155,174	152,666	155,000	Mar. 31
New Zealand.....	36,698	46,877	47,134	48,465	48,950	June 30
Total Oceania 3/.....	159,530	199,575	202,320	201,140	203,960	
TOTAL WORLD 3/.....	848,100	977,400	991,500	979,000	990,500	

1/ Preliminary. 2/ October-December numbers are included under following year for comparisons and totals.
3/ Includes allowance for any missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown. 4/ Less than 5 years. 5/ Excludes Faroe Islands. 6/ Includes Saarland. 7/ Includes West Berlin, excludes Saarland. 8/ May census. 9/ Includes Azores and Maderia Islands. 10/ Some years are estimates based on total number of sheep and goats. 11/ November census. 12/ Formerly Belgian Congo. 13/ December census. 14/ Includes goats. 15/ Includes Northern British Cameroons. 16/ On native farms. 17/ Includes 22 provinces, Manchuria, Sinkiang, and Tibet. Excludes Outer Mongolia.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, other foreign source material, reports of United States agricultural attaches and other representatives abroad, results of office research and related information.

May 9, 1962.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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